



NOAA FY 2001 Budget Request Fact Sheet

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE



Protect and Restore our Coastal Resources - \$0.5 Million Increase, \$1.0 Million Total

NOAA requests \$1.0 million in FY 2001, an increase of \$0.5 million from the FY 2000 appropriated level for the Coastal Protection and Restoration (CPR) program (formerly the Coastal Resource Coordination program) to ensure that cleanup actions at coastal hazardous waste sites protect and restore fish, shellfish, wetlands, coastal habitats, and other natural resources. The CPR program is a key component of NOAA's FY 2001 Clean Water Initiative. Requested funds will enable NOAA to address a broad range of contaminated sites that pose significant risks to coastal natural resources and provide critical technical assistance to States and communities on the restoration of contaminated coastal habitats. These activities will improve the health of our coastal waters and the resources they support.

The Threat of Hazardous Waste Sites

Contamination from hazardous waste sites in the coastal zone degrades and destroys valuable marine, estuarine and coastal habitat by contaminating the waters and sediments that support fish, shellfish, marine mammals and other important species. People who consume contaminated seafood are also at risk. Since 1985, NOAA's CPR program has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and other lead cleanup agencies to reduce the impact of contaminants on natural resources. NOAA's CPR program is currently funded with Superfund program money that is passed to NOAA through an interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. Due to the nature of this funding,



Iron discharge at Army Creek landfill, Delaware.

however, the range, extent and priorities of NOAA's stewardship efforts at coastal hazardous waste sites are limited. For example, NOAA is precluded from providing technical assistance and tools to local communities and States, working on sites where a State is in charge of the cleanup, working on active industrial facilities and other non-Superfund sites, and working on Federal facility sites such as military bases. Yet such sites contribute to the degradation of coastal areas and must be addressed with the appropriate expertise.

Reducing the Impacts

Clean Water Initiative funding will allow the CPR program to serve a broader constituency and accelerate cleanups by building stronger partnerships with States and local communities.

NOAA's CPR program received Clean Water Initiative funding in FY 1999 and FY 2000. With this funding, the program was able to address more than 35 additional waste sites and expand the scope and number of Watershed Database and Mapping Projects. Without Clean Water Initiative funding, these activities would not have been possible.

Funds in FY 2001 will enable the program to continue work on current sites and take on more than ten important new sites that are not covered by the Superfund program, including

NOAA Budget

		FY 2001 Request \$ million
National Ocean Service		
Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment		
(Control of Harmful Algal Blooms)		\$10.4
(Coastal Protection and Restoration)		\$1.0
Ocean and Coastal Management		
(CZMA Grants)		\$6.0
(Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control)		\$4.5
Clean Water Initiative	Total	\$ 21.9

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State-lead cleanups, military facilities, and active industrial facilities that pose a significant risk to coastal natural resources. Technical assistance will be provided to States and communities faced with the complex issues associated with the cleanup and restoration of waste sites. Examples of these new hazardous waste sites could include state-lead waste sites or military sites in states such as: New Jersey (Mattice Chemical site), Louisiana, Texas, Alaska (Dutch Harbor, Klag Bay), and the Great Lakes (Thunder Bay, Michigan); military facilities in the Pacific (Guam or Wake Island), brownfield sites in EPA Region 2 and 3 (East Palo Alto, California), and active industrial facilities. Specific sites will be selected in FY 2001.

Products and services that CPR field staff and a multi-disciplinary team of experts can bring to bear include the capability to:

- describe the resources at risk, the contaminants of concern and the ways the contaminants could reach natural resources and people;
- design scientifically sound sampling strategies;
- measure and predict the effects of contaminants on natural resources;
- develop site-specific cleanup levels;
- recommend cost-effective approaches for site assessment and cleanup;
- design monitoring programs to ensure the remedies are protective; and

- develop database and mapping tools to support improved remedial decision-making and restoration planning.

Why NOAA?

Several factors make NOAA's participation in hazardous waste site cleanups essential:

NOAA has mandated responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) and other statutes to protect and preserve marine and coastal resources for future generations. NOAA fulfills these "trustee" responsibilities by addressing coastal contamination issues. The CPR program is one of NOAA's most important tools in meeting the agency's trustee mandate; the program is an advocate for natural resources in the ongoing cleanup and restoration process.

NOAA's broader responsibilities for observing, describing, and predicting change in coastal systems, and promoting long-term stewardship of coastal resources make the agency uniquely qualified to provide solutions to the problems caused by the release of hazardous substances in coastal environments.

NOAA's experience and capabilities enable it to provide user-friendly data and information to local and State coastal managers to assist them in making decisions concerning site cleanup and restoration.



Sign at the edge of New Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts prohibits fishing and swimming due to PCB contamination in the sediment and water. NOAA is working in partnership with other agencies to protect and restore healthy coastal habitat at this site and hundreds of other sites along our coast.

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